



APRIL 2026

FROM OUR GRADUATES

Larry Thomas: “It’s great to hear about activities of class survivors. Sad about the losses and praying that they left this world in peace. I get jokes of the day from two sources, and most of your jokes are ones I’ve not seen. They are all in good taste and witty. It’s a bright spot in a sad world. I’m thankful we have lived in the best of times. Proud to be a member WHS 60.”

Betty Luedeker Gatlin: “Really like ‘The Last Time’. It says a lot right now.”

UPDATES

VERY IMPORTANT- Make this correction in your directory. **Robert Wilson** has a new email address. His old address is no longer in use: new email address is:

rwilson9490@gmail.com

Bernie Lenamon: It has been reported that Bernie’s wife, Anna, has died. No further info is currently available. Bernie lives in Lake Alfred, FL.

Carolyn Easter (widow of Bob Easter)- Carolyn has moved to Tennessee to be near her daughter. She does return to Austin for visits as she has a son who lives there. Carolyn is teaching bridge to new friends.



The Book Corner



Mickey Lavy has another book he would like to recommend- **MATTIE**. This read should be especially interesting for people who live in Waco as it is written by a well-known Waco Realtor, Betty Willis.



Betty Willis was associated with Jim Stewart Realtors until Jim died. At that time, the company became Coldwell-Banker. Betty continued her successful career there until she retired. She was one of Waco’s top Realtors for many years. Betty was raised in Abbott, Texas. She received Baylor’s Alumnae-By-Choice Degree. Always having been very interested in Texas history, she has authored 3 different books that delve into her family’s experiences while arriving and living in Texas. Her other books (Ruby Remembers) tell of her mother’s memories and (Texas Quest) of her great-great grandfather who immigrated from Germany to Galveston.

Mickey Lavy says **MATTIE** is about a dyslexic girl in the 1800’s and her struggle for success. The author, who listened intently to both of her grandmothers tell their life stories in Texas, says **Mattie** is based on the life of her dyslexic grandmother. Today, when Betty gives talks to different groups, she encourages

them to learn the history of their ancestors and pass it along to descendants. Not a bad idea for all of us to do. What is your history?

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1. Edgar Gatlin
- 6 Pam Wilson McCanish, Nancy Guggolz Rogers
- 17 Anne Parke Markham



PASSING THE BUCK/THE BUCK STOPS HERE

Most men in the early west carried a jack knife made by the Buck knife company. When playing poker it is common to place one of these Buck knives in front of the dealer so that everyone knew who he was. When it was time for a new dealer the deck of cards and the knife were given to the new dealer. If this person didn't want to deal, he would "pass the buck" to the next player. If that player accepted, then "the buck stopped there".

RIFF RAFF

The Mississippi River was the main way of traveling from north to south. Riverboats carried passengers and freight, but they were expensive, so most people used rafts. Everything had the right of way over rafts which were considered cheap. The steering oar on the rafts was called a "riff" and this transposed into riff-raff, meaning low class.

OVER A BARREL

In the days before CPR, a drowning victim would be placed face down over a barrel and the barrel would be rolled back and forth in an effort to empty the lungs of water. It was rarely effective. If you are over a barrel, you are in deep trouble.

A NEAT IDEA



Attach bread clips to the beginning of tape rolls.
This will help to eliminate the frustration of finding the edge of the tape when you need to use it.



Do you know the difference between poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac?

Remember this: “ **Leaves of three, beware of me**”

Poison ivy typically wraps itself around trees or grows as a small shrub.



Poison Oak is typically a low shrub in Eastern States, likes sandy soil, and sometimes grows near

lakes.



Poison sumac typically has rows of paired leaflets. It likes to grow in standing water.



Urushiol is the oil that is in the sap of these plants. It is colorless or pale yellow. This sap can ooze from any part of the plant that is cut or crushed. Urushiol can live for several years, so even if you think the plant is dead, it still may be very harmful to you. The oil causes an itchy rash that is most aggravating.

If you should make contact with any of these plants, make certain to wash any part of your body that may have touched the weeds. Wash your clothes. Avoid putting these clothes on anything to which the oil could cling. Make sure none of the oil is on any garden tool, sports equipment, or possibly the fur of your dog or cat because whenever you touch that item, the oil will stick to you, also. If you get an itchy rash, you should take cool showers and apply calamine lotion. An oatmeal bath will also ease itching. Should you get a very bad rash, you may need to make a trip to your doctor and get some cortisone.

You cannot “catch” a poison ivy rash from others but avoid the oil if it happens to be on the other person. The best lesson: Know the difference between these plants and **DO NOT TOUCH**. The oil from the plant is most worrisome. “**Leaves of three, beware of me.**”

PICTURES:

You cannot keep a good girl down- especially when it is **Judith Hamff Murphy!** She has healed from the bone break she had in Portugal and is back doing her journeys again. This is from Judith regarding her last trip:

“March 14th I returned from a 2+ weeks cruise from San Diego to Miami through the Panama Canal. Great relaxing time—and now I know where the Canadians are spending their winter since they left Florida! Lots of "snowbirds" too, and a smattering of Californians. (Some of the Canadians stay on the ship for multiple cruises—a few for six weeks or more.)

I hope all is well with you and our classmates. Southern California is having a record-breaking hot winter. It was 94 degrees at my house yesterday. Crazy!!”



Judith, March 5, 2026

Tim Lasseter Latta took her granddaughter, Lili, to Washington DC for spring break.



The Press Room



At the White House

HUMOR:

Doug Smith is on his deathbed and knows the end is near. His nurse, his wife, his daughter, and two sons are with him. He asks for two witnesses to be present, a camcorder be in place to record his last wishes, and when all is ready, he begins to speak:

"My son, Bernie, I want you to take the Mayfair houses.

My daughter Sybil, you take the apartments over in the east end.

My son, Jamie, I want you to take the offices over in the City Centre.

Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings on the banks of the river."

The nurse and witnesses are blown away, as they did not realize his extensive holdings, and as Doug slips away, the nurse says, "Mrs. Smith, your husband must have been such a hard-working man to have accumulated all this property". Sarah replies, "Property? he only had a paper route!"

The Coolest Headstone:

Russell J. Larsen had this inscribed on his headstone in Logan, Utah. He died not knowing that he would win the "Coolest Headstone" contest.

- 1. It's important to have a woman who helps at home, cooks from time to time, cleans up, and has a job.*
- 2. It's important to have a woman who can make you laugh.*
- 3. It's important to have a woman who you can trust and doesn't lie to you.*
- 4. It's important to have a woman who is good in bed and likes to be with you.*
- 5. It's very, very important that these four women do not know each other or you could end up dead like*

Russell J Larsen





Sitting by the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, an OPP police officer sees a car pattering along at 27 kmh. Says he to himself: **"This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!"** So, he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over. Approaching the car, he notices that there are five old ladies, two in the front seat and three in the back...wide eyed and white as ghosts.

The driver, obviously confused, says to him "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, **"you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."**

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly...Twenty-seven miles an hour!" ...the old woman says a bit proudly. The Police officer, trying to contain a chuckle, explains to her that 27 is the highway number, not the speed limit.

A bit embarrassed, the woman grins and thanks the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask...Is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken, and they haven't made a peep this whole time," the officer asks.

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer. We just got off Highway 169."

If you earn it, they tax it
If you spend it, they tax it
If you save it, they tax it
If you invest in it, they tax it
If you build it, they tax it
If you sell it, they tax it
If you live in it, they tax it
If you drive it, they tax it
If you eat it, they tax it
If you give it away, they tax it
When you die, they tax it
Then they waste it



TEST CHICKENS- *(Supposedly a true story)*

Scientists at NASA built a gun specifically to launch standard 4 pound Dead chickens at the windshields of airliners, military jets and the space shuttle, all traveling at maximum velocity.

The idea is to simulate the frequent incidents of collisions with airborne fowl to test the strength of the windshields.

British engineers heard about the gun and were eager to test it on the windshields of their new high-speed trains. Arrangements were made, and a gun was sent to the British engineers. When the gun was fired, the engineers stood shocked as the chicken hurled out of the barrel, crashed into the shatterproof shield, smashed it to smithereens, blasted through the control console, snapped the engineer's backrest in two, and embedded itself in the back wall of the cabin, like an arrow shot from a bow.

The horrified Brits sent NASA the disastrous results of the experiment, along with the designs of the windshield and begged the U.S. scientists for suggestions.

NASA responded with a one-line memo, "Defrost the chicken."

Urgency

I realized I had to use the bathroom.

I got up and walked to the pantry.

I forgot why I was going to the pantry.

I remembered that I had to go and went to the bathroom.

While I was sitting there, I realized why I had to go to the pantry; to get toilet paper.



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